

100201138-2

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REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the final Official Action mailed 16 March 2005 and the subsequent Advisory Action mailed May 31, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-27 and 41-44 are cancelled herein. Claims 3, 6 and 28-31 were cancelled previously. Claims 11-27 were withdrawn previously under a Restriction Requirement and have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 32-40 and 45-49 are currently pending for the further action.

Allowed Claims:

In the outstanding final Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 32-40 and 45-49. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the allowance of these claims.

All other claims were cancelled previously or are cancelled herein. Consequently, following entry of this amendment, the application will contain only those claims already allowed by the Examiner and should, therefore, be in condition for immediate allowance.

The canceled claims are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer and solely to expedite the allowance of this application. Applicant reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications to the cancelled claims or any other subject matter described in the present application.

Prior Art:

With regard to the prior art, the outstanding Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 31 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 6,166,919 to Nicolici et al.

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("Nicolici"). Alternatively, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 was rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the teachings of Nicolici taken alone.

Applicant continues to traverse these rejections for the reasons of record. However, to obtain immediate allowance of the present application, the rejected claims have been cancelled herein, rendering these rejections moot.

Conclusion:

Entry of the present amendment is proper and requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the amendment merely cancels rejected claims. Moreover, the amendment places the application in condition for allowance as determined by the Examiner. Therefore, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.


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For the foregoing reasons, the present application is thought to be clearly in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the application in light of these remarks is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile number ~~703-872-9306~~ on June 15, 2005. Number of Pages: 10


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